Social Media Monitoring of the German Federal Election Campaign 2017

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Notes:

- The data is available under http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.12992
- See for an exhaustive documentation of the project: "Systematically Monitoring Social Media: The case of the German federal election 2017" in *GESIS Papers 2018/04*.
- The research period of the project was 6 July to 30 September 2017.
- The data includes the following elements:
  - **candidates.utf-8.csv**: Names of candidates for the German federal election 2017 from the major parties AfD, CSU, CDU, FDP, Grüne, Linke and SPD. Information on candidates, e.g. on spelling of names is based on data from the federal election official of Germany (Bundeswahlleiter) that can be accessed at https://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/bundestagswahlen/2017/wahlbewerber.html (version date 23 August 2017). Our data includes information from the Bundeswahlleiter on constituencies and candidates. Most importantly, the file contains the accounts of candidates on Facebook and Twitter we found in our extensive research during the election campaign.
  - **facebook_organizations.utf-8.csv**: Facebook accounts of political gatekeepers. The file includes the following accounts of the following party branches: national parties, caucuses in the Bundestag (''Bundestagsfraktion''), the parties in the federal states (''Landesparteien'') and youth organizations (e.g., the Jusos). The list includes accounts by established media organizations and so-called "alternative media" that we generated from a survey of crowdworkers. Moreover, the list contains accounts from the right-wing German protest movement Pegida.
  - **twitter_organizations.utf-8.csv**: This file contains the analogous data as in "facebook_organizations.utf-8.csv", only for Twitter.
  - **tweet_ids.utf-8.csv**: The list of IDs of all tweets we collected between 6 July and 30 September 2017.
- The files are encoded in UTF-8 and should be opened / read into statistical software accordingly.

Description of variables in the candidate dataset (candidates.utf-8.csv)

unique_id	
Description	Consecutive numbering of cases. A case is a person who stood as a candidate for the German parliamentary election in 2017 for one of the major parties AfD, CDU, CSU, FDP, Grüne, Linke or SPD.
Values	1 to 2,516

name	
Description	Full surname of the candidate, whereby name suffixes are not included in this variable (see variable "namesuffix" and/or "title").
Values	String

firstname	
Description	All first names of the candidate.
Values	String

title	
Description	Academic title of the candidate (if it exists).
Values	String

namesuffix	
Description	Name pre- or suffixes of the candidate (if it exists).
Values	String

fblink1	
Description	URL of the first Facebook account or page of the candidate (if it exists).
Values	String

fblink2	
Description	URL of the second Facebook account or page of the candidate (if it exists).
Values	String

twlink	
Description	URL of the Twitter account of the candidate (if it exists).
Values	String

isListed		
Description	Is the candidate placed on a party list?	
Values	0	No
	1	Yes

list_place

Description	Candidate's place on the party list (if s/he is listed).
Values	String

isDC

Description	Is the candidate a direct candidate in one of the constituencies?	
Values	0	No
	1	Yes

constituency

Description	Official number of the constituency in which the candidate is running for a direct mandate
Values	1 to 299

constituency_str

Description	Official name of the constituency in which the candidate is running for a direct mandate
Values	String

state

Description	Name of the state in which she or he is a candidate (regardless of the kind of candidacy)	
Values	1	Schleswig-Holstein
	2	Hamburg
	3	Niedersachsen
	4	Bremen
	5	Nordrhein-Westfalen
	6	Hessen
	7	Rheinland-Pfalz
	8	Baden-Württemberg
	9	Bayern
	10	Saarland
	11	Berlin
	12	Brandenburg
	13	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
	14	Sachsen
	15	Sachsen-Anhalt
	16	Thüringen

renewed_candidacy

Description	Is the candidate a member of the federal parliament (Bundestag)?	
Values	0	No
	1	Yes

party

Description	Party of the candidate.	
Values	1	CDU
	2	SPD
	3	Linke
	4	Grüne
	5	CSU
	6	FDP
	7	AfD

sex

Description	Gender of the candidate.	
Values	0	Female
	1	Male

age

Description	The candidate's year of birth.
Values	1932 to 1999

residence

Description	The candidate's place of residence.
Values	String

birthplace

Description	The candidate's place of birth.
Values	String

profession

Description	The candidate's profession.
Values	String